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THE MUSKET

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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Photo Credit: Adwitia Dey

Joey Magarian, a LABBB Junior, passed away during the beginning of this year.

A Loss to the Community

By Emily Moss

On Friday, October 15th, Lexington High School lost a member of its community. Joey Magarian, a participant in the LABBB program, passed away in his sleep. Joey's sister, Mandie, is a junior at LHS.

"I just want everyone to realize how loved he was," Mandie said. "He was so gentle and caring." Everyone who met Joey noticed his kindness right away. A friend of Mandie's described Joey as "the sweetest kid ever - nothing ever bothered him."

Joey spent the last few years at LHS as a member of the respected LABBB program that combines special needs students from Lexington, Arlington, Bedford, Burlington and Belmont. His classroom teacher, Kathy Farley, commented on how much Joey loved LHS. "He loved the social interaction not only with LABBB students, but with regular students as well." He also loved the Burlington Mall and

Continued on Page 2

Inside This Issue

College Applications
It's the season for college applications. Not all seniors are enjoying it. Page 3

Election Opinions
Students share their opinions about the presidential election. Page 4

Golf to State Tourney
With a season record of 7-2, the LHS golf team places second in Middlesex League. Page 7.

Senate Votes to Abolish Weighted GPA

By Hannah Hsieh

On November 10, the LHS Student Faculty Senate voted 40-9 in favor of a bill that would eliminate students' weighted grade point averages at Lexington High School. Usually higher than the unweighted GPA, the weighted GPA is calculated on a 5.0 scale and factors into account the increased level of courses that a student takes. The bill was introduced by Math teacher and senator Jim Williams as an attempt to get students to reevaluate their course choices and take classes that challenge and interest them, instead of taking courses just to boost their GPA.

After its passage the bill was sent to Principal Michael Jones, who would normally have a full week in which to either accept or veto it. However, Jones asked the Senate to extend the time for him to consider the bill before making his final decision. "I don't oppose this bill," Jones told the Senate at its November 17th meeting. "What I need is a little more time... I want to make sure that no student is placed at a disadvantage in the college admission process, or feels disadvantaged."

The Senate granted Jones an extension until January 15, so as to give him time to discuss the matter with the various department heads, the School Council and the School Committee. If implemented, this bill would not go into effect until the start of the 2005-2006 school year.

Before voting on the bill, members of the Senate were informed that a Guidance Department phone survey of nearly 150 colleges conducted in 2003-2004 found that most colleges currently do not use LHS's weighted GPA in assessing an applicant's record. Most, in fact, use a weighted GPA of their own based on their own calculations, in accordance with the school's profile which the guidance staff provide them. Guidance counselor and senator Melissa Buttaro explained, "We asked colleges how they used our GPA, and if our kids would be penalized if we didn't provide a weighted GPA. Most said they simply 'eyeball' the transcript. Some schools said they use the weighted GPA, but it is definitely not the sole determinant."

LHS is one of the many high schools around the country that no longer provide class rank. At the present, there seems to be no logistical use for a weighted GPA at LHS. Even the Honor Roll is determined by a student's letter grade, and not a weighted grade. National Honor Society advisors believe that doing away with the weighted GPA, which has been used as a criteria for eligibility for NHS, would probably not affect that organization very much at all.

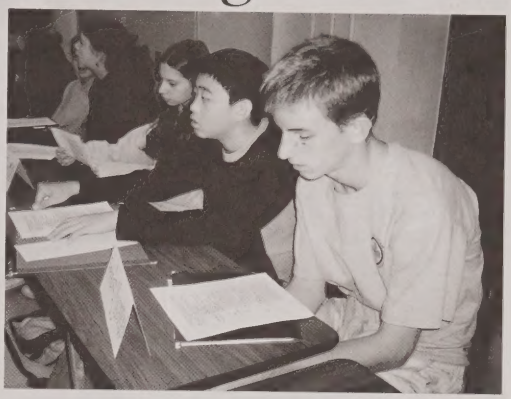

Photo Credit: Rei Wang

Senator Brendan Magauran prepares for a meeting.

Buttaro said that getting rid of the weighted GPA is not going to hurt students. "Right now, we don't need a weighted GPA: it's archaic and anything we use it for now can be changed. Removing it levels the playing field so all students in all classes can feel valued."

The proposal to abolish the weighted GPA was originally contained in the final report of the Graduation Requirements Committee submitted in October of 2003. The argument in support of its removal was made on the grounds that this change would "allow students to best match their academic needs and goals, rather than choosing courses based on the weight of the level of the course."

At the Senate meeting where the vote was taken, Math Department Head Gary Simon spoke in support of the bill stat-

Continued on Page 2

Substance Abuse Contract Put Aside

By Ben Carter

During the first homeroom of the school year, students found themselves greeted by a cluster of papers and forms. Along with the anticipated house card and emergency information sheet, a paper labeled as a Student Activities Contract found itself in the annual mix.

The contract was presented as an agreement that students would comply with new policies regarding the use of substances at school events. It stated that students are not to consume any alcoholic beverages or use any controlled substance before or during any high school activity. Students also have to agree to take a breathalyzer test if they are suspected of consuming alcohol. Refusal or failure of this test, or any other violation of this contract will result in parental notification and further consequences.

The *LHS Parent/Student Handbook* explained that until the completed contract is returned to a student's respective dean, he or she may not participate in any major school activities. However, this introductory text, which appears in the handbook, was nowhere to be found on the contract form.

Immediately, questions regarding these new policies arose in the minds of many students and homeroom teachers. The general confusion that followed left students uncertain as to whether or not they should sign the contract. These inquiries were addressed the following week at the LHS Student-Faculty Senate meeting. However, no new light could be shed upon the Student Activities Contract. Principal Dr. Michael Jones, who was in attendance at the senate meeting, also could not produce a satisfactory explanation. Shortly after the meeting, Jones made the decision to suspend implementation of the Student Activities Contract until further discussions were held.

Over a month after the contract's suspension, its origins remain unknown and continue to bewilder those who turned to their equally uninformed homeroom teachers for clarification. Even Jones could not pinpoint the exact source of the contract, given that he was not yet a member of the administration in the spring of 2004 when the policies were originally adopted.

Despite his absence, Dr. Jones had no trouble identifying the reality that the problems at school activities and complaints from both parents and students alike first prompted discussions on the matter. It had been known for a time that drinking and substance abuse was an issue at school events, but only this past spring was the problem directly addressed.

The adoption of this policy had the clear motivation of reducing student's behavior at school events, but the legal implications of signing the contract remained unknown. It was, in fact, these legal issues that had created the most controversy. Jones simply stated that a signature is nothing more than an acknowledgement of reading the contract, and an agreement to the terms presented. It is not a legally-binding document; no authorities would be contacted in the event of a policy violation, and parents, although required to sign, would assume no legal liabilities for the actions of their son or daughter.

In the eyes of the administration, the termination of the much-maligned Student Activities Contract was necessary to end confusion and prevent further controversy. However, Jones explained that this indefinite sus-

Continued on Page 2

GSA Hosts Popular Halloween Dance

By Luke Neumann

The Lexington High School Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) hosted a Halloween-themed dance on Friday, October 29th. The dance was open to all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight members of the LHS community, as well as their friends from other high schools.

The dance lasted for three hours from 7:30 to 10:30, and had a very good turn out. Many came over to Commons 2 dressed in Halloween costumes for an extravagant costume contest. The decorations and music were great; the GSA thanks all those who volunteered their time. Any money left over after expenses will be used either for a future dance, or other events such as National Coming-Out Day and the Day of Silence.

When asked why the GSA chose to host the event, one member said, "There are people from here and other schools who wouldn't feel comfortable with a same gender at a dance. And the costume part just makes it all the more fun."

The GSA is a statewide organization that has many participating schools, including our own Lexington High. They are an organization pushing for the acceptance of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, questioning students, along with their straight allies. The GSA discusses, supports, and advocates for those who choose a different sexual preference than straight.

The GSA is a very confidential group. Many people attend the GSA, so if you would like to come, you would most definitely not be alone. There is an exceptionally large number of people in the GSA this year. They meet on Thursdays after school in the guidance conference room, for anyone who wants to go. The GSA will welcome with open arms all those who wish to join.

LABBB Death

Continued from Page 1

taking walks in Lexington center. One of his favorite activities was when a music therapist came in regularly to work with them.

Joey was a member of the Life Skills program, which helps teach LABBB students practical skills. "For students with an extra level of need, we have physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy," described Farley. The program also employs advanced technology and is starting to integrate computer activities. For students with limited motion or speech abilities, there are special systems designed especially for them. Farley said, "We try to keep it as stimulating as possible."

According to everyone who knew them, Joey and Mandie were extremely close. One friend said, "They were best friends. Joey's face would light up when he saw Mandie." He loved going to Mandie's softball games. The rest of Joey's family was extremely involved in his education as well. Farley describes his parents as "part of our team". She added, "They gave 100% to Joey."

On Monday, October 18th, a moment of silence was held in Joey's honor. In the words of the Life Skills Director, "Joey was a good kid; we're all going to miss him."

Photo Credit: Jessica Green

Lexington High School's new law enforcement class visits State Police Crime Lab.

A Trip to the State Police Crime Lab

By Jessica Green

On Friday, October 29, Mr. Nocito's law class took the day off from school to visit the MA State Police Crime Lab. These twenty students were taken on a five hour field trip around the various units. They passed through criminalistics, trace analysis, the drug unit, ballistics (firearms), and crime scene services. The trip was an effort to experience and see all that they had learned in the classroom, including forensics, the use of DNA for investigation.

Senior Monique Getzoyan said, "It was a really unique experience. If I were to be involved in that type of job, I don't think I would be able to go through all that work." Senior James Lee also commented, "It was one of the best field trips I've ever been on."

Controversy over Student Activities Contract

Continued from Page 1

pension should not be seen as a decision by the administration to ease up on the enforcement of the existing substance and alcohol policies. "The use of drugs and alcohol at school events creates an unpleasant and unsafe environment for both bystanders and those who choose to partake in such acts," he said.

Students will still be expected to be clean and sober in the future at school-sponsored activities, even if there is no breathalyzer at the door for the time being. Jones further emphasized that a safe environment for students remains the top priority on the administration's list, and students can count on a new policy being passed sometime before the end of next school year.

"The administration needs to talk about what can be done to establish a safe environment at school activities, whether that means enforcing new policies or canceling events altogether." Jones did agree, however, that the adoption of such a far-reaching policy with potential legal implications will be presented to various representative bodies for discussions beforehand, including the Senate, the School Council, and the Lexington School Committee.

Weighted GPA

Continued from Page 1

ing that the weighted GPA only contributed to the growing sense of competition among students. "Why do we feel that we need to quantitatively value one level over another?" he asked. "We want to honor the efforts of every student, at all levels," he added.

Simon did acknowledge, however, that removing the weighted GPA will not solve the issue of grades and grade competition among students. "This is not a panacea for the issues that arise from leveled courses… [but] it addresses the inequity of how our school system honors the work that students do across all levels."

"The weighted GPA gives students the false sense of security that they are doing OK, getting a C in an AP or Honors class 'because it's like a B in a Level 1 class'," said senior senator Daniel Choi. "Its not like the colleges don't see that you're taking AP Bio or honors Calc. They do. It doesn't take anything away from the student to get rid of the weighted GPA. Instead, it helps them be real with whether they are really taking the right classes for themselves."

Model UN Hosts Art Auction

By Jessica Green

In an effort to help the Dafur refugees in the Sudan, Model United Nations will be holding an art auction featuring student and faculty artwork. Through the Doctors Without Borders fund, 95% of the proceeds will go to the refugees, while the remaining 5% will be used to reimburse the cost of the auction.

The auction will be held in the LHS auditorium on Friday, December 17, from 7:00-9:00 pm. The cost for admission is $5 for adults and $3 for students with an ID. All students and faculty are encouraged to donate artwork, whether it be paintings, sculpture, knitting, or jewelry. All flatwork should be framed before it is turned in. Pieces should be submitted to Annie Zeybekoglu in room 214.

Model UN has decided to take great measures in trying to help a cause that they find imperative. In the Sudan, 30,000 refugees a month are dying due to lack of water and food. Zeybekoglu, commonly called "Ms. Z", is the teacher advisor of Model UN. "The situation in the Sudan is an ethnic cleansing," she said. "Our concern is that the humanitarian aid is delivered to the people." All donations are greatly appreciated and will go towards a great cause.

Note: Opinions of *The Musket* writers do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or Lexington High School. Correspondence to *The Musket* should be addressed to *The Musket*, c/o Lexington High School, 251 Waltham St., Lexington, MA. Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to reject, edit, or admit any or all submissions.

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Spirit Week a Smashing Success

By Alexandra Dimodica

The revival of Spirit Week took place the week preceding Halloween and was a complete success! The senior class council dutifully organized this week-long extravaganza, and with the help of the other class councils created a fun-filled, high-participation event.

Monday was designated Color Day with the seniors blazing in red, the juniors in the ever-popular yellow, the sophomores sporting green, and the fortunate freshman adorning themselves in traditional blue. The juniors took a creative approach by supplying their class with yellow ribbons, tee-shirts, headbands, and bandanas; their tactics were successful, as they won the first round of spirit week!

Tuesday was Crazy Hat Day, where students and faculty had fun with wild hats that ranged from Spanish sombreros to classic top hats. The seniors came out with a strong win as they proudly wore their wild hats all day. Waikiki Wednesday followed next, and the day was filled with sweet summer memories. The seniors persevered once again, and swept away the juniors' valiant attempts to drape the entire class in colorful leis. Dress-Up Dress-Down Day on Thursday was clinched by the zealous juniors. That made the score 2:2, with the lower classmen being completely dominated by their elders.

Ending with the appropriate Halloween Day, this year's Spirit Week was clearly a positive and exciting event. With costumes ranging from the Pink Ladies and mystical fairies to ghosts and vampires, everyone showed their best school spirit by stepping out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary.

Even with the seniors capturing the trophy at the end of the week, many students had positive responses to the results of Spirit Week. Junior Zak Leonard commented, "Spirit week was a remarkable success due to the unprecedented participation." Another student, Matt Ellis, exclaimed, "Spirit Week was awesome! I loved dressing up every day, and displaying my school spirit." Many felt that Spirit Week successfully unified each class and the school as a whole in a common cause: to show LHS spirit.

Photo Credit: Rei Wang

These test prep books can be found in every college-bound student's library.

College Application Season Has Arrived

By Amelia Servi

It's that time of year again, when seniors can no longer ignore the task of applying to college. For those who are unfamiliar with the process or who just love obsessing about college, the college application process is a many-step ordeal. It includes researching and visiting colleges, choosing schools, taking the SAT's, SAT II's, ACT's, writing a personal essay, filling out applications, interviewing, arranging teacher and guidance counselor recommendations, sending out transcripts and Collegeboard scores, paying the application fees, and then finally waiting and waiting to find out if you get in. Whew.

Clearly, the process is quite involved, and when asked, many seniors have much to say on the matter. First of all, they agree that applying to schools takes a lot of time. "I've gotten a lot less sleep [lately]. I'm giving up weekends for a month and a half to go to open houses," said Eileen Hosmer-Mullen. Since seniors continue to have regular amounts of schoolwork, many are feeling the strain. According to Yeajin An, "It's hard to manage both school work and college work. College work is not something you can finish in one day."

In addition to the time spent applying to college, the process weighs on many seniors' minds. "It becomes the most important thing in your life," explained Jason Leung. "Since you are recording all of your past, you are thinking about what you could have done better… What you do for fun is pushed to the side." Some seniors feel that the process gets too much airtime. "People talk about college too much," complained Trish Domings.

Fortunately, students have found some benefits in the application process. "The essay has a positive effect because [students] can sit down and think about themselves." said An. While the application process can be difficult, the prospect of college is attractive to many students. "It's exciting to think about leaving home," said Hosmer-Mullen.

On the other hand, students have complaints about some parts of the process. The SAT's are extremely unpopular with

Continued on Page 7

Photo Credit: Selena Lane

CQU's Katya Dreyer-Oren, Dan Meltzer, and Sarah Whitfield jazz up the night.

Music Department Performs

By Sabriya Syed

The Music Department launched the year off with two great performances: the Honors Concert and Fall Jam. On October 28th, the Honors Concert displayed the talent of the Honors Wind Ensemble and Honors Orchestra, along with the notable a capella group, the Madrigals.

The groups performed a variety of music from Irish Jigs to Schubert, catering to a wide range of taste in the audience. The first performance of the year is always met with some apprehension; members are eager to have a successful start and hope to make a good impression. Worries put to rest, they outdid themselves this year and got off to a great start.

The second performance of the year was Fall Jam on November 6th. Somewhat of an LHS tradition, Fall Jam is an entertaining night held exclusively for displaying the talents of the school's many a capella groups. "It's a lot of fun… we sing songs you can hear on the radio… [the setting] is very laid back," described a cappella group members, seniors Katya Dreyer-Oren and Manneh Ghazarian. The a cappela groups, led by Mr. O'Connell, put many hours of preparation into their performances and gave an outstanding concert. Congratulations to all participants in both concerts!

As if this were not enough, there was a new addition to the Music Department this fall in the midst of the concert hubbub, an a capella group named Carousel. Formed by several motivated students wishing simply to sing, Carousel is a great addition to the six a capella groups at LHS. We look forward to hearing them perform in upcoming concerts.

Exchange Under Way

By Sasha Raikhlina

On October 15th, this year's French exchange kicked off with the long-awaited arrival of the exchange students. Each year, fifteen students from Antony, France spend two weeks in Lexington hosted by LHS students. The following April, the LHS students complete the exchange and travel to Lycée DesCartes in Antony.

Upon arriving in Lexington, the Antony students were easily infected with the Red Sox euphoria and psyched about the dance parties. They spent most school days on tours of Boston and the surrounding areas. On the rare occasions when they had free time, the guest students intrigued the LHS crowd by invading booths in Commons I and blabbering in French slang outside the foreign language building. Some LHS students had the opportunity to watch some fascinating presentations prepared by the exchange students, on topics ranging from French rock to Moliere's theater.

The Lexington host parents displayed unbelievable warmth and tolerance, allowing boisterous masses of students to occupy their houses and offering an endless stream of pizza, homemade cookies and soft drinks to the hungry group.

Sadly, good things have a wicked tendency of coming to an end. After a short two-week experience, fifteen Antony and sixteen LHS students said their last goodbyes. However, they were already making plans for April when they will meet again in France.

Fate of Democrats Lies In South

By Andrew Yegian

It is the year 2004, twenty-four years since the election of Ronald Reagan to the highest office in the land. Technology has changed, the Eastern Empire collapsed, New Coke rose and fell, and yet the conservative revolution in this country's government has burned on. Sixteen of these twenty-four years have been stewarded by a Republican president, and a majority of those years have also held a Republican-controlled Congress.

The question that many Americans have who voted for John Kerry this past election, is why? Why are rural, Southern and Midwestern voters in the lower portion of the income scale voting for the party that backs Big Business and protects the interests of the wealthy few? The answer lies in the key phrase that has cropped up in the post-election rubble - moral values.

It has become abundantly clear that the socially conservative views of the South and Midwest have become the majority in this nation and must be heard. Unfortunately for the liberal pockets of the country, these voters choose moral values as the most important criteria for a candidate. This is also unfortunate for the actual voters, for they often vote into office Republicans who not only have conservative moral values but are also conservative in all their politics. These voters vote representatives into office that do not represent them, and it is hurting the majority of the nation as the rich get richer and the middle class gets pushed aside.

Nowhere is this trend of misvoting more apparent than in Democratic strongholds in the South. West Virginia, a state which has elected a Democratic governor, two Democratic senators, and has a majority of representatives in the Democratic party, voted with a safe margin for President Bush based solely on his moral values. Arkansas, the so-called 'Democratic haven' in the South, with a Democratic governor and senators and the homestate of Democratic hero Bill Clinton, also voted for President Bush. Virginia, a state run by a youthful, strong Democratic governor went safely for

Continued on Page 3

Yet Another "Bogartized" Production

By Emily Holland

"This is going to be bizarre," drama teacher Steven Bogart said with a mysterious grin. For a while now, Bogart has been known to do abstract theater. Last year's Globefest production, The Toilet Operas, was an abstract piece inspired by paintings by the surrealist artist Joan Miro. The play did not follow a traditional linear structure and was meant for the audience to understand on a deeper level.

This year, Bogart has begun yet another abstract project called Pataphysical Theater. By definition, this is theater that has a solution to the impossible or imaginary situations. "Basically, anything goes," said senior Leah Henoch

The Drama Club has given up half their time on Bogart's endeavor. He started them off with the story of a Little Jellyfish, properly called LJ. LJ wanted something more from life, but he was not sure what. He went to his doctor, a jellyfish of course. That is all the club participants were left to work with. They then took out paper and pens, and drew or wrote whatever came to mind regarding LJ and a parade. With their ideas, they grouped into threes and decided to become an imaginary creature in the story. All at once, the groups marched in a parade to the parade music that Bogart provided. As weeks passed, LJ's story continued on to other more advanced levels.

Participants seemed excited and enthralled with this new experiment. Many showed up just to see what next Bogart had up his sleeve. Henoch described the experience as "fun, and it gets your imagination working. Things are not real, or unreal, because anything is possible."

Rather than asking what it is, one must see it and decide for oneself. Like the reality of pataphysical theater, it is unexplainable. Working with the impossible is quite a mind rush. Nothing is out of reach; everything is at your disposal. Make sure to check out the finalized journey of LJ at Winterfest, in early February.

Democrats Felled by Arrogance and Ignorance

By Bobby Bongiovi

The Republicans won the White House and gained seats in both the House and the Senate because far-left ideologues have managed to assume power and hijack the Democratic Party away from its more moderate members.

It has brought to the forefront its most liberal members, choosing one of the most liberal senators in the country to run for president. John Kerry could only manage to win a handful of states on the coasts. Only a moderate democrat like Bill Clinton can be accepted in the Midwest and the South. This is a party that has come to be represented in the people's eyes by extreme leftists such as Michael Moore, and adopted a secularist agenda that is out of step with the sentiment of the nation.

Democrats will keep losing elections if they continue in their current mindset about conservatives. There is a belief among many liberals that people who voted for George W. Bush are either stupid or were tricked. This degrading view towards people who hold a different opinion than theirs is obscenely arrogant and has contributed to an underestimation of how many people would vote for Bush. It is hard for those on the far left to accept that smart people actually agree with Bush's policies and were not 'fooled' into voting for him.

The Democratic Party has lost votes in traditionally Democratic states such as Arkansas, West Virginia, and Iowa. The party has also taken some of its usually Democratic voters for granted, like African Americans and Hispanic Americans. In exchange, the Republican Party has gained these votes because it pushes an agenda that reflects traditional values that are shared with the majority of Americans.

It has been said that minorities and people who have suffered economically in the past few years voted against their interests by voting Republican. This runs along with the view that voters for Bush are being tricked, or do not understand what is really going on. Perhaps they thought a Bush presidency would be best for the economy, or perhaps their interests lie in putting moral values ahead of economic gain.

Continued on Page 5

The 2004 Election Was a Masterpiece of GOP Deception

By Josiah Reibstein

Congratulations, Mr. Bush. You did it. You accomplished the extraordinary. You worked a miracle. You managed to get yourself elected yet again as this country's commander-in-chief.

Granted, not all of us thought you could do it (roughly 48% of America's voting population). We had our doubts. It seemed rather far-fetched that a campaign relying on the ignorance and arrogance of the American people would actually succeed, but you proved us all wrong. All it took was a lot of fear mongering and a few carefully placed statements regarding "moral values."

I've got to hand it to you, President Bush. You've got a real talent for twisting truths and omitting facts while still making these distortions relatively unnoticeable. You can't argue with results - the majority of your supporters actually believe that Saddam Hussein was connected to both the tragic September 11 attacks and the terrorist network Al Qaeda. And a recent poll determined that at least a third of your fan base thinks that those mythical "Weapons of Mass Destruction" were recovered in Iraq. I guess those "We're doing the right thing" statements weren't just examples of your superciliousness. They managed to swing more than enough voters in your favor. We didn't think they'd buy it, what with over a thousand dead American soldiers, the newly-discovered 14,284 minimum of Iraqi civilian casualties, the rising influx of terrorists into the heated region, and our isolation from former allies.

Maybe you just gave it your best shot. "It's hard work!", "You have to trust me!" and "I don't think this nation should have a president who changes decisions," were somewhat unsophisticated and vague, but hey, you sounded like a down-to-earth guy, and isn't that just what America needs? Your numerous stumbling pauses and repetitions of wooden phrases ("Ideology of evil," "That's what Kim Jong wants!") must have contributed to your self-chiseled persona as a "regular guy". And you regained your composure during the second and third debates. At least you demonstrated a firm grasp of the English language, although it was difficult to ignore the blatant ambiguities and avoidance of pointed questions.

But I'm most impressed with the utilization of your religion in the campaign effort. Gems like "I believe God wants me to be president," and your clever tactic of amplifying issues like homosexual marriage, stem cell research, and abortion blocked out a plethora of significant issues surrounding your election. You'd think the religious fundamentalists would be more concerned with your violation of a few biblical laws, including the immorality of allowing citizens to starve, waging a pointless war, and lying to the people you lead. But you played your cards well. It turns out they're more concerned with the "sin" of two homosexuals being granted the same privileges as straight couples and the "murders" of fetuses across the country by women who chose to forsake undesired pregnancies.

Yes, your re-election certainly was a magnificent feat, certainly something to put on your resume. President Bush, you did it. You manipulated the public's fears. You set a statute that favors belief and blind trust over fact and logic.

But most of all, President Bush, you were able to erase the last four years. And I've got to say – those doozies are pretty hard to forget!

Southern Democrats

Continued from Page 4

Bush. The seeping of conservatism also reached the Senate, as Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Georgia all lost Democratic seats to Republicans based on votes centered on moral values.

This conservative revolution in government is unhealthy for the nation. Reaganomics, and now the continuation of those policies by Bush, have driven this country into the biggest debt it has ever seen. Tax cuts for the rich hurt the economy and the livelihood of the working class, as job loss is prevalent in wide sectors of the economy.

The Democratic party must rally around the South. There are huge amounts of electoral votes and representatives in the South which the Democratic party should be getting based on the population. If people were sensible enough to vote for the candidates that best look out for their livelihood, the Democratic party would hold much of the region. The party must realize the importance of conservative moral values and must push candidates that appeal to these values but have the policy that represents the people. Morally conservative and politically liberal Democrats are the wave of the future and the party must groom this breed in order to retake power on Capitol Hill and the White House.

In the aftermath of Bush-Kerry, names for the Democratic nomination in 2008 have been thrown around, such as Hillary Clinton and Barrack Obama. These two candidates, and Northern liberals like them, do not stand a chance in today's conservative environment. The only type of Democrat that can take the Oval Office is a morally-conservative Southerner, and the Democratic party must recognize this and move towards grooming one for the tough run in 2008.

Photo Credit: Ani Sanyal

Stephen King's thrilling new 700-page novel "Needful Things" is enjoyable.

Entertainment Abounds in "Needful Things"

By Josiah Reibstein

The prolific horror author Stephen King once referred to Needful Things, his 700-page chronicle of a small town's gradual destruction under greed and obsession, as a "black comedy." Although the novel contains some delightful tongue-in-cheek elements and a few plot devices that may seem ludicrous to the unseasoned King reader, the plot and denouement are far from funny. King has been branded as a horror writer for good reason. He possesses the sharp talent of turning bland, almost laughable situations into flesh-and-blood terrors, and Needful Things is no exception.

Concerning the many motley inhabitants of Castle Rock - a secluded rural village with a touch of the supernatural - the novel opens with the introduction of a new store, titled "Needful Things." Benign at first, it is soon apparent that this store caters to the obsessions and deep wants of the town inhabitants, eventually destroying some of them.

The story is told through a variety of lenses, allowing the reader to find sympathy with many of the characters. By far the most interesting and layered of the cast members is Sheriff Alan Pangorn, a widower with a penchant for hand-shadows and a strict adherence to his own morality. However, I found that my own sympathy rested with Polly Chalmers, the young and pretty Castle Rock citizen whose hands are so riddled with arthritis that the simplest of tasks is impossible to her.

On the other side of the spectrum is the shop-owner Leland Gaunt, the proprietor of Needful Things. King has managed to create a believable, captivating villain, a psychopathic manipulator whose charisma and chameleon-like amiability drive many of the Castle Rock citizens to grotesque ends. Most interesting is the way in which King portrays Gaunt, transitioning him gradually from a kind, good-hearted salesman to a chilling embodiment of evil.

Although an enjoyable read, Needful Things is not one of King's best. There are few actual moments in Needful Things in which the reader is terrified, although a creepy atmosphere hangs over every scene. King's study of possessions and the places they hold in peoples' lives is entertaining and innovative, although at some points a little stunted. King's voice is fluid and clear, and he paints the image of Castle Rock the way an artist details a canvas. Though some characters are more developed than others, and a few sub-plots are unneeded and extraneous, the novel pulls through in the end with a satisfying and climactic conclusion. In any event, Needful Things is a good autumn read and a lot of fun.

Homeland Security Missing Locally

By Alex Deng

A quiet neighborhood in modern suburbia; what could go wrong? That's what hundreds of Russian families thought before their children's school was violently taken over by hostile Chechen terrorists this past summer. The "it could never happen to me" attitude on protecting against terrorism has led to disasters on many occasions, including September 11th and the Oklahoma City bombing. Lexington, MA appears to be a secure community, but so did Beslan, Russia before the tragedy that gripped the world.

After September 11th, the Bush administration established the Department of Homeland Security to better prepare for terrorist attacks on the United States. Every state has been given extra money to defend against terrorists. However, when was the last time you saw a metal detector at LHS? Almost 2,000 young adults packed into a relatively small compound makes a perfect opportunity for radicals who wish to make their statements heard in the heart of America. About 300 of the children taken hostage in Russia were slaughtered, approximately one third of the captives. Imagine the carnage if those with bad intentions took over LHS.

Unfortunatly, terrorists don't only come from far away places. Sometimes they are from where you least expect them to be: inside our local worlds. Take Columbine for example, a school not too different from our own. No one suspected anything wrong in the affluent suburb, yet one day a few unstable students walked into school untouched with firearms and massacred innocent people. This can happen at any school, yet only inner-city 'at risk' schools have safety procedures to guard against this.

Granted, the odds of a terrorist attack, domestic or foreign, happening in Lexington are miniscule. However, billions of taxpayers' dollars are being poured into Homeland Security every year, with some of it going to Massachusetts and the towns in the state. If President Bush and his cabinet tell everyone to be alert, advocate having duct tape and plastic tarps to protect against attacks that can strike "anywhere at anytime", and leave the nation on a 'high' terror alert (which is the lowest it has been since its implementation), then why do we not see the effects of this money and extra security meant to protect us? Is it because we are not worthy of the protection? Or is it because the money is being spent elsewhere on things that do not protect us?

Election Opinion

Continued from Page 4

Many voters in this country hold strong moral values that they feel are being compromised in today's society. They vote for candidates they believe will defend these traditional values. It is possible that the issue of gay marriage brought out enough voters to tip the scales in favor of Bush in states like Ohio, but the election was not won on that single issue. Values and issues of faith are now part of a national discussion and played an important role in this election.

Bush is comfortable talking about his religious beliefs. Kerry seemed insincere when he tried to explain his stance on abortion. The Catholic Church is against abortion, and he is against abortion, but he takes a pro-choice stance because he does not want to force his religious beliefs on anyone.

On the other hand, voters saw that Bush is not afraid to fight for his convictions. That is why he won on issues of faith and values. This, combined with his winning on issues of national security and the war on terrorism, was how Bush rightfully won the Presidency for four more years.

Ann's Song Guide

By Andrea Mercado

What's Ann's Guide? A review of songs that are known, quasi-known, and forgotten, in contrast to obscure music reviews that mean absolutely nothing. It also links songs to memories, moods, tastes, and appropriate listening occasions to help the reader make the most of his or her listening experience.

Israel Kamakawaio'ole "Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World": Listen to this when you're unbelievingly content and have that extra bounce in your step, because you don't get to listen to a ukulele every day. A reminder that not everything is terrible. Lay flat to dry. For sunny day use only.

Beck "Sexx Laws": Probably the only song with a banjo to successfully make it on alternative radio. Listen to it when joking around with friends and dancing around the living room table because you seriously have nothing better to do.

Jane's Addiction "Just Because": Has effects similar to those of caffeine. Listen to this during the wee hours of the morning when you desperately need to wake up. Has a temporary side-effect of deafening ears.

Jimi Hendrix "Purple Haze": The key Band Night song. Guaranteed to get the crowd going. Afro preferred, but not required. For high-energy moments only.

Weezer "The World has Turned and Left Me Here": Happy song with a depressing name. Listen to it when being extremely unproductive. It will not assist in getting your work done, but at least you will feel better.

Michel Camilo Impresses at Sanders Theater

By Josiah Reibstein

On October 22, Sanders Theater was filled with the fierce key-strokes of Michel Camilo. The performance was beautiful, passionate, and above all, exciting both to hear and observe. It offered an incredible array of sounds and sights, including his electric opener "From Within" and his encore, a witty, tongue-in-cheek rendition of the famous "Tequila."

Whether Camilo is playing one of his own compositions, a well-known jazz standard, or a mesh of both, it's impossible to know what to expect. The pieces he has written frequently switch from mood to mood. They can be foreboding, upbeat, poignant, or all three at once. It is part of Camilo's genius that he can transition from feeling to feeling without sounding out of place or showy.

While this musical "suspense" is entertaining to listen to, it is even more incredible to watch. Camilo's hands are dexterous and strong. They may peruse the keys with a faint laziness, or transform into blurred flashes as they rush rapidly up and down the keyboard. Accompanied by Cliff Almond's equally ferocious drumming and Charles Flores' leisurely bass playing, Camilo explores every opportunity his instrument offers.

Camilo's music is haunting, yet captivating, and after watching him demonstrate his mastery of the piano, it is obvious that he is one of the jazz geniuses of our time.

Easier, More Accurate Attendance System

By Joey Colosimo

Lexington High School has become the guinea pig for a new attendance program designed by physics teacher Mr. Colarusso. On the inside, the new program is very fast, with a dedicated server handling all the incoming data from the classrooms. The process of checking in can take less than 5 seconds. The program is able to tell a student his attendance record, and it even automatically checks for any N's. Unexcused absenses can be replaced by excused ones with just a few clicks from a dean or secretary (provided that the student has an excuse).

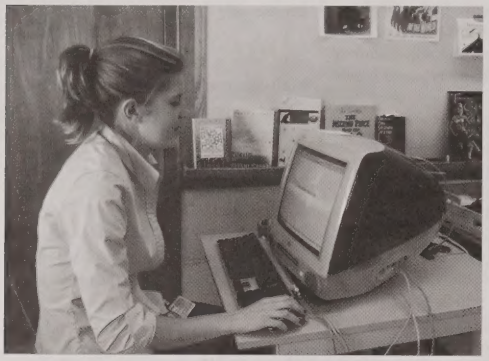

Photo Credit: Ani Sanyal

Ms. Chambers takes a minute to catch up on attendance.

This evolutionary program was designed to fix the problems that were encountered by previous methods that LHS used for taking attendance. In the beginning, there was the card system. Teachers wrote attendance information on cards and submitted them to the office. They then had to manually check to see if each student was receiving a N, a mark of poor attendance. Because this was done manually, human error was always a big problem. If a teacher was checking through 80 or 90 records, the chances of missing a N would be very high.

Next, LHS began using an attendance program designed by the same company that makes the current grading program. It certainly revolutionized the process of taking attendance, but was still very inefficient. The simple process of taking attendance took "some 30 clicks," according to Colarusso. Teachers still had to figure out manually if there student had a N.

There are close to 2000 students at LHS, and keeping track of them can only be done with a computer program that is straightforward enough to make the process quick but powerful enough to keep track of everyone. With minimal problems, this system will hopefully provide teachers with a way of taking attendance that is finally as simple as it should be.

2004 Holiday Season Heavy-Hitters Arrive

By David Ganzi

With the holiday season coming soon, video game developers are finally kicking out their long-awaited titles. From late October through November, it's hard not to be excited with the release of these monumental sequels: Halo 2, Gran Turismo 4, Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, and Half-Life 2.

First, there's Bungie's baby, Halo 2. Look for better A.I. for enemies and friends, with guns akimbo! Hijacking vehicles (newly equiped with turbo boost) is now possible with just the push of a button. The player can use the Covenant sword, and there is also a new rocket launcher targeting system to look forward to.

The next Grand Theft Auto? Prepare for some awesome gameplay. It has clearer graphics and a better draw distance that reduces pop-up. One can even customize the characters with clothes, tattoos, and hair. Finally, there are rural playing areas: No more drowning, because now you can swim!

Gran Turismo 4 is the next in the series of the "best driving games ever". Perfection is improved with 650+ cars and mind-blowing graphics that match high-end PC games. There is also a new play mode: B-Spec Mode, where the player is the navigator and tells the driver how to drive. It has improved sound recordings of the cars that are more realistic, an animated driver, 3D spectators, and even a pit crew. Heck, it even has an officially licensed steering wheel.

Valve has spent a great amount of effort for this landmark title, Half-Life 2. FPS fans rejoice, for it includes a Havok physics engine and a Half-Life gameplay that's not an add-on. It also includes updated versions of Counter-Strike and Day of Defeat. However, there are a few downers: a complete 1984 rip-off, still no co-op, and no regular HL2 multiplayer.

With the plethora of games released every month, sequels are coming out on top. Graphics engines are proving to take too long to create and opt to reuse their old engines instead. This means that the developers spend more time on the gameplay and not how pretty it looks. Half-Life 2 is the only exception because it uses the newly created "Source" engine. No wonder it took 6 years to make.

Musical 'Pippin' Is a Hit

By Andrew Gerzon

Lexington High School's first drama production of the year, the highly anticipated Pippin, did not disappoint. The cast, dressed in colorful costumes and accompanied by a wonderful musical score, gave three energetic performances from November 18-20.

The auditorium was filled with students, teachers, parents and alumni who were excited to see what the drama department had up their sleeves. At various points during the performance, the cast ventured out into the audience and made it more of an interactive kind of musical.

Although unconventional theatre is almost rather ordinary here at LHS, this production did indeed have something special to it. After last year's story of a murderous barber in the musical "Sweeney Todd", the abstract Globe Fest play "The Toilet Operas", and the dark, vampiric "Kindred", this year's Pippin was appropriately fun and light.

Originally a novel by Roger O. Hirson, Pippin was adapted for the stage by Stephen Schwartz and produced on Broadway for the first time in 1972. The musical takes on the historical figure of Pippin, the son of Charlemagne, and tells a different version of the well-known story. "It's a musical comedy," explained sophomore cast member Tzil Rozenblat.

Pippin wants to find some meaning and fulfillment in his life by trying new and different things. He first attempts to be a soldier, and then tries to become the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire after 'murdering' Charlemagne. Pippin has difficulty in all of his endeavors and finds it hard to live up to his father's expectations.

"[Pippin] keeps trying different things until in the end he realizes he wants a simple life," commented sophomore cast-member David Fouhy.

Although many young people can relate to the coming of age aspect of Pippin's story, the musical also contains many tongue-in-cheek commentaries on politics, war, religion and even journalism. The music also makes it all the more fun.

While plays generally attract the theatre goers, and concerts interest music lovers, the musical this year combined those two groups. Whether it was the awesome music, wonderful acting, or the interesting story, Pippin was definitely a hit.

Photo Credit: Selena Lane

Runners Melinda Medlock, Kate Sullivan, Elizabeth Kernan, Jill Mcnabb and Hilary Mislan prepare at the starting line for their Cross Country meeting

Cross Country Teams Roll Again

By Mike Grossi

Lexington cross country runners Paul Morris and Jill McNabb distinguished themselves this year as two of the finest runners in LHS history with their outstanding performances in recent end-of- season competitions. Senior Morris capped off his impressive cross country career with a third place finish at the state meet held at the Gardner Municipal Golf Course on November 20th.

Morris finished the 2.9 mile course with a time of 14:21. In fact, he even led the race for much of the early going, ultimately finishing close on the heels of the eventual winner Newton North's Chris Barnicle. Barnicle is considered by many Massachusetts track experts to be one of the finest high school runners in the country.

A week before the state competition, Morris finished 4th in the Class A meet at Franklin Park in Boston. His perfomance that day was hindered somewhat by the six inches of snow

Continued on Page 7

Photo Credit: Selena Lane

Captain Paul Morris attacks a hill for the Varsity Cross Country team.

LHS Golf Team Makes State Tournament

By Stuart Grimes

The LHS varsity golf team finished the 2004 season with a record of 7-2, good enough for second place in the Middlesex League. The team was terrific all year long; the senior tri-captains Lala Anai, James Vanneman and David Ganzi performed exceptionally well.

Throughout the season, juniors Mike Sharamowitz, David Sykes, Chris Lopez, Mike Clarke and Eric King also met with success. Anai has held the number one spot all season long. Not only is she is one of the best players in the Middlesex League, she is also one of the best in the state. Shramowitz holds the two spot; he and Anai have proved to be a lethal duo.

The team has earned a berth to the state finals by finishing 3rd out of 12 teams in the post-season tournament. It will be the first time in 15 years that the LHS varsity golf team has advanced to the state finals.

The Minutemen are poised to show their Middlesex League rivals that they have the potential to establish a future dynasty. Freshmen Mark Guttag, Lee Smith and sophomore Brian Wang are all ready to step up and contribute next season for another run at the state title.

Cross-Country Teams Roll Again

Continued from Page 6

which fell on the course the night before. The boys cross country coach Jeff Glew said that Morris' time would have been "at least a minute faster" if the course conditions had been more favorable.

Meanwhile, sophomore Jill McNabb proved once again to be the class of the Lexington girls' runners with a 7th place finish at the Class A meet, followed a week later with a 12th place at states. McNabb was vindicated to some degree at the class meet when her time was five seconds faster than the Winchester runner who had nipped Jill in the Middlesex League meet just two weeks earlier.

Photo Credit: Selena Lane

Nick Paster and Dale Davidson work together to beat Burlington.

The Lexington boys and girls cross country squads rolled through the Middlesex League, posting excellent records in their respective leagues. The boys went undefeated once again with mark of 9-0, while the girls finished 8-1 losing only by a point to Winchester. The boys also won the league meet on October 25, securing the title as league champs for the 6th year in a row.

Photo Credit: Selena Lane

JP Noonan focuses on the race ahead.

Senior captains Morris, Alan Druga, and Archie Abrams stepped it up all year and showed their stuff by placing high in a number of pressure races. Morris placed 6th among elite New England runners in the Brown Invitational Meet earlier in the season and then went undefeated in dual meet competition.

The captains were not the only runners to show good form throughout the season. Other key performers were JP Noonan, Dave Brown, Tim Kim, and Andrew Bowen. Four of Lexington's runners were among fifteen Middlesex performers to be named league all-stars. Along with Morris, they included Noonan, Kim and Brown. To be named as an all-star, runners from the league are voted in by other runners. Having four runners named to the team was a testament to how successful the boys were this season.

Even though many of this year's top performers will be graduating in the spring, there are several rising stars on the horizon looking to continue Lexington's winning ways. Some of these potential stars of the future are Clive Liu, Danny Spencer, Jack Mizerack, and Rob Bleakley. In assessing this year's season Coach Glew said, "The team is a bunch of guys who fight to the last inch, and have a 'never say die' attitude. They are extremely smart, and know exactly what to do to win."

Not to be overshadowed by the boys, the girls' cross country team also performed admirably throughout the season despite a number of crippling injuries to key runners. The girls led by senior captains Marilynn Heymann, Hilary Mislan, and Julia Bond ran second to Winchester in the league meet and had to rise to the occasion time and time again because of the absence of injured performers. Unfortunately, the biggest loss was Heymann who missed a number of important meets down the stretch.

Meanwhile McNabb, Kate Sullivan, and Liz Kernan consistently ran to the best of their ability. They became the teams' most reliable runners and always seem to finish near the top of the standings in each meet. Sophomore McNabb was the most consistent runner all season, as not only the top girl on the team but as the second best runner in the Middlesex League.

Both Sullivan and Kernan elevated their performances to the elite level as they, along with McNabb, were named to the league all-star team. With so many outstanding underclassmen performers, the girls should be a real factor in Eastern Massachusetts competition next year.

In looking at the overall performance of the girls this year, assistant coach Kathleen Waller said, "The team, although riddled with injuries, has risen to the occasion time and time again. We've had key performances from all of the runners, not just the elite ones. The team runs as a pack, and they help each other out, showing exactly what team work is all about."

Field Hockey Surprises

By Kevin Slane

Despite losing ten seniors from the 2003 season, coach Sandy Curt expected her girls field hockey team to make a playoff run this season. Surprisingly, the Minutemen did just that, even though they only had one returning starter in junior Sarah Smith.

The Minutemen were able to post a 10-5-3 record for the season, and were helped along by the veteran leadership of Kelsey Nason, Sarah Groves, Linnea Texin, and Monique Getzoyan, all of whom are seniors this year.

The girls qualified for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association postseason tournament as the 12th seed, with a 1-0 victory over previously undefeated Watertown on October 26. The game marked the first time that Lexington defeated Watertown in over fifteen years, as well as Watertown's first loss within the Middlesex League in three years.

Getzoyan scored the only goal of the game, and sophomore goalie Leigh Riley made a number of key saves to secure the win. The girls defeated Burlington 2-0 in the last game of the regular season.

In the first round of the playoffs, the team played against Weston, the fourth seed. As one of the best teams in the state in recent years,

Weston was able to beat Lexington, but not without a fight. This was hardly a setback for the LHS team, as they had already exceeded all expectations just by making the postseason.

Juniors Smith, Alexandra Alspaugh, Kessa Coleman, and Jessie Kimball all played very well this season, and should be ready to step into leadership roles next season. The team also had a number of sophomore players who played well, while continuing to learn the subtleties of the game under the tutelage of their senior captains. With only four seniors departing, the 2005 field hockey team promises to be a very good one.

College Admissions Season Has Arrived

Continued from Page 3

most students. Stash Wyslouch expressed a sentiment felt by many. "It's too bad that we are represented by two numbers that in fact only measure [our] test taking skills and not [our] actual ability."

As far as advice for underclassmen, many seniors advise starting the process early. "Take [the SAT's] early, and only take them twice at most," said Alex Cheng. Hosmer-Mullen agreed, "It's not a good idea to do everything at once."

"At first it was stressful finding colleges I can get into," said Ed Borden. "Now I'm sending in the common application, it's fine. It's out of my hands. I can't do any more." Seniors, too, need advice on how to survive to application process. "Do what you can but don't freak out," Borden suggested. Hear, hear.

Footballers Raise Record to 6-4

By Larry Schweitzer

With two recent overtime victories and a stomping of Watertown in between, the LHS football team recovered from early season woes and a disappointing loss to Winchester to improve its record to 6-4. Only the traditional Thanksgiving face off against Burlington is left on the schedule.

After a hard luck loss to the Woburn Tanners, the Lexington Minutemen held on for a 29-21 victory in overtime against Wakefield. However, the team's momentum was short lived as the Minutemen fell to Winchester the following week by a score of 20-14.

The gridders recovered a week later by hammering out its largest point total of the season in thrashing Watertown 41-21. That game was highlighted by four Mike Busa to Jason Kashamian touchdown passes.

Senior Co-captain Busa, who had been injured earlier in the season and missed several key games, also added five extra points and ran for a 28 yard touchdown. Watertown was keying on Lexington star running back Jesse Spartichino the whole game, so Coach Bill Tighe elected to unleash an awesome air attack.

The Watertown victory was followed up the next week with another dramatic overtime win against Reading. That game turned out to be an unusual Wednesday afternoon contest, due to a freak snow storm the previous weekend that left the Rockets' field covered by five inches of the white stuff. Once again the Minutemen relied on the running of Spartichino, who scored his 18th and 19th touchdowns of the season to break his own school record. His final score culminated a dramatic overtime drive for the victory.

The scoring in the Wakefield game started in the first quarter when Spartichino made an impressive 88-yard run all the way for a touchdown, one of his three rushing touchdowns on the day. Busa followed with the extra-point.

In the second quarter however, Wakefield evened up the score, but Spartichino penetrated the tough Wakefield defense once again with a 6-yard TD run to put the Minutemen ahead 14-7.

In the third quarter, Lexington struck again. This time by Kashmanian on a 14-yard run. This put the Minutemen up 21-7.

In the fourth quarter, Wakefield gave it all they had, scoring 14 unanswered points. In order to tie the game and send it into overtime, the Warriors had to convert the 2-point conversion, which they did on a neat little pass play.

With the game tied and Lexington gaining first possesion of the ball in the extra quarter, Busa and the Minutemen methodically marched down the field and scored on a Spartichino touchdown from the 1-yard line. Busa topped it off with a great pass to Kashmanian for the 2-point conversion.

The eight point lead would have required the Warriors to not only score a touchdown, but to add on a 2-point conversion as well. Fortunately for the Minutemen, their defense held and they came away victorious with a well-deserved 29-21 win.

Volleyball Spiked in the End

By Arjun Gokhale

After a tough rebuilding this year, the girls volleyball team still managed to pull out a 5-11 record; this is quite respectable, considering how many experienced seniors left the team after last season. Although they didn't make the playoffs, the team is brimming with potential and appears destined for a bright future. Senior Co-Captains Jill Eisenberg and Vanessa Cirelli have kept a positive attitude in the locker room and have been strong leaders.

Coach Jane Bergin is extremely proud of her girls. "It has certainly been a tough year, but the girls have battled. They've gone out and worked hard, tried their best, and had fun. That's really all you can ask of them." Last Friday, against top-ranked Reading, the girls entered the game with no practice because of field house construction. In the face of this drawback and in the absence of their setter, Lexington still hung tough. Although they didn't win, it was an example of the team's resiliency and its unwillingness to quit. The girls will finish up the season with two games against North Andover and Belmont. Seniors Eisenberg and Cirelli have played extremely well, backed by Annie Jacob, Jen Kozin and Natasha Dolgin.

Girls Soccer Finishes Disappointing Season

By Kevin Slane

On a cold, blustery Monday afternoon, the Lexington varsity girls soccer team headed to Watertown in pursuit of their third win of the season. Thanks to some timely goals by Kara Reardon and Jackie Easton, the Minuteman were able to beat Watertown, 2-0. The team was helped defensively by Alexa Dougherty, Molly Blumberg, Jackie Chan, and Jess Batty. Excellent goalkeeping was contributed by Natasha Groblewski, who showed great presence and poise in posting a shutout.

With two games remaining in the season, the Minutemen's season record stands at 3-11-2, meaning they no longer have a chance to qualify for a postseason tournament. Despite this disappointing season for the Minuteman, there have been many high points along the way. Senior captains Tracy Chang, Groblewski, and Dougherty have led a very young team through many trials and tribulations, gaining valuable experience in the process. With so few seniors on the team this year, it was expected that the Minutemen would go through some growing pains.

One of the biggest surprises of the season is how much the freshmen on the team have stepped up. Easton, Blumberg, Amanda McKenna, and Megan-Marie Delegas have all played very well, and are sure to have an impact on the team for years to come. Head Coach Keith Woods is very excited about how the team is playing, saying that the team has played "great soccer" lately.

One of the things that has helped the team out is having all of their captains at different positions, so that they can better set an example for the younger players. Chang, a forward, has shown great hustle throughout the season, and has been key to Lexington's offense. Dougherty, the sweeper, has anchored a defense that has successfully halted opposing forwards. Groblewski, the goalie, has worked hard, and has shown herself to be a vocal leader; she can often be seen shouting directions and words of encouragement to her fellow players. There is no doubt that these three captains will be missed next season. But all of the new players this year will have a season's experience under their belt, and will hopefully have improved their games drastically.

As a result of a few unfortunate injuries, the team has perhaps not performed as well as expected. Rochelle Butler, Eliza Duncan, and Melissa Doo have all missed significant time this season. Butler, who broke her shin in the pre-season, has missed the entire season. This was indeed an unfortunate loss for the team as she was expected to be a big contributor this season. Of course, injuries happen to every team, but usually not to such a great extent.

The Minutemen have performed much better than their 3-11-2 record indicates. They have played in several close contests that should have been Lexington victories. Unfortunately, the girls have made their share of mistakes and miscues on the field. Coach Woods has put an emphasis on cutting down on mistakes, saying that "we must stop beating ourselves." At least it's comforting to know that the team will have something to work on for next season, which promises to be a good one. With so much young talent, and so many returning starters for next season's squad, the Lexington girls' soccer team, will certainly be a force to be reckoned with next fall.

Boys Soccer Falls Short in Tourney

By Arjun Gokhale

One of the best seasons in recent memory for the Lexington boys soccer team ended on a disappointing note. The Minutemen finished with 14-5-1 record during the regular season, good enough for first place in the Middlesex League. However, the Acton-Boxboro Colonials knocked off the Minutemen 3-0 in the quarterfinals of the MIAA state tournament to end Lexington's remarkable season.

Missing Middlesex leading scorer and senior co-captain Phil Schoeniger, the offense faltered and was shut out for only the third time this season. In just his second season after coming from Germany last year, Schoeniger firmly established himself as one of the premier players in the Middlesex League. He led Lexington in goals with 21 for the season, despite the fact that he missed the last 5 games with a broken foot.

With Schoeniger injured, Acton-Boxboro placed their focus on shutting down seniors Chris O'Connor and Mike Fentin. The Colonials got off to a fast start, scoring a goal in the opening minutes. Although the players felt they matched up well against Acton-Boxboro, Schoeniger might have provided the offensive boost the team needed.

Senior Andrew Goodrich echoed these sentiments exactly. "I think we all felt we still should have won, but there's no doubt having the leading goal scorer would have helped us."

The boys went into the playoffs on a roll as they won their last few games, including a tough match against Watertown. In a very physical game, Watertown acquired 2 yellow cards over the course of the contest in which Lexington prevailed 5-1.

Lexington was able to beat West Roxbury on the road in the first round of the playoffs 4-0 as O'Connor scored two goals in the first half. The defense was strong as they shut out one of the more athletic offenses that they had faced during the 2004 season.

The upperclassmen have had plenty of playoff experience as the Minutemen have made the playoffs the last 3 years. The inexperienced sophomores held their own too, as Alex Lach and Brian Longo each had goals against West Roxbury.

The strong play of Peter Goodrich created many scoring opportunities. The underclassmen provided a strong foundation that will allow the team to remain successful in upcoming seasons.

Head Coach Jim Wood worked his team hard, and was very proud of the boys. "They are a very good soccer team," he said. Although the Minutemen lost, they deserve a great deal of accolades as they submitted a terrifc season that will go down as one of their best over the last few years of Lexington soccer history.